

Message Text

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12

ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 MC-02 /041 W

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P R 060827Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5746

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9437

SECDEF FOR ASD/ISA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS ET US

SUBJ: F-5E PILOT TRAINING

1. AMB IN CALL AUG 5 IN LIJ MIKAEL IMRU, POLAD TO PMAC CHAIRMAN, STRONGLY URGED IMMEDIATE DEPARTURE OF F-5E PILOTS FOR TRAINING CYCLE IN US, AND POINTED OUT CONSEQUENCES TO EPMG OF MUCH DELAYED DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT IF PILOTS DO NOT LEAVE THIS WEEK. AMB SAID USG IS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT PILOTS ARE BEING DELAYED AS PRESSURE TACTIC TO OBTAIN FAVORABLE RESPONSE TO EPMG DEMANDS FOR ACCELERATED DELIVERY OF FIRST TWELVE AIRCRAFT. IF SO, THIS COULD NOT WORK IN TIME FRAME EPMG MUST OPERATE IN. NEXT PILOT TRAINING CYCLE WOULD NOT START UNTIL CALENDAR YEAR 1976, AND USG WOULD NOT RPT NOT DELIVER F-5E AIRCRAFT UNTIL PILOTS ARE AVAILABLE, WHICH WOULD MEAN DELAY IN DELIVERY UNTIL SECOND HALF OF 1976.

2. LIJ MIKAEL SAID HE HAD HEARD THIS PROBLEM DISCUSSED, BUT HAD NOT REALIZED SEVERE CONSEQUENCES OF MISSING THIS TRAINING CYCLE. HE WOULD BRING MATTER TO ATTENTION OF PMAC CHAIRMAN TEFERI BANTE IMMEDIATELY. HE SPECULATED THAT ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE MIGHT BE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT TRANSITION PILOT TRAINING IS SIMPLE MATTER NOT REALLY REQUIRING SIX MONTHS. AMB SAID EAF CERTAINLY DID UNDERSTAND THE WHOLEPROBLEM BECAUSE OF REPEATED REPRESENTATIONS, INCLUDING SOME IN WRITING, BY MAAG. AMB HAD
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TALKED IN SIMILAR VEIN TO DEFMIN AYALEW, WHO UNDERSTOOD THE

SITUATION PERFECTLY. PERHAPS, AMB SAID, OTHER DECISION-MAKERS IN DIRG MIGHT NOT UNDERSTAND CONSEQUENCES, AND AMB WAS TRYING TO MAKE SURE THAT WHATEVER DECISION IS REACHED BY DIRG IS BASED ON FULL KNOWLEDGE OF FACTS. USG COULD NOT BE IN POSITION OF BEGGING EPMG TO ACCEPT US MILITARY ASSISTANCE, BUT IN VIEW OF DIFFICULT DECISION-MAKING PROCESS IN DIRG (WHICH LIJ MIKAEL CANDIDLY ACKNOWLEDGED), IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THERE BE NO MIS-UNDERSTANDING.

3. COMMENT: WE WILL KNOW IN A DAY OR TWO EPMG DECISION. BELIEVE WE HAVE DONE ALL WE CAN TO BRING FACTS BEFORE DECISION-MAKERS. FONMIN KIFLE WILL NOT RETURN TO ETHIOPIA UNTIL NEXT WEEK, AND AMB WILL SEE HIM ON THIS AND OTHER SUBJECTS THEN.
HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 06 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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